

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00449 050721Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /065 W

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P 050650Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7718

INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOCI, ELAB, CM

SUBJECT: STRIKES CONTINUE, GOVERNMENT WARNS WORKERS

REF: YAOUNDE 434, YAOUNDE 410

1. BREAKING PUBLIC SILENCE ON STRIKES, GURC ISSUED
COMMUNIQUE FEB 3 (WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS FEB 4)
RECALLING VARIOUS MEASURES IT HAD TAKEN TO ENABLE
WORKERS TO INCREASE OR MAINTAIN PURCHASING POWER,
INCLUDING RECENT SALARY INCREASE. COMMUNIQUE STRESSED
THAT THESE MEASURES, ELABORATED IN COLLABORATION WITH
OFFICIAL MANAGEMENT AND LABOR REPRESENTATIVES, REPRESENT
MAXIMUM THAT ECONOMY CAN SUPPORT. SOME PRIVATE SECTOR
WORKERS NOW PERSISTING IN MAKING NEW WAGE AND
ALLOWANCE CLAIMS AND "THINKING THEY ARE PERMITTED TO
PROVOKE ILLEGAL WORK STOPPAGES IN SOME ENTERPRISES
TO ACHIEVE THEIR ENDS" ARE REMINDED THAT FURTHER
INCREASES WOULD FORCE LAYOFFS OF SOME PERSONNEL OR EVEN
CLOSING DOWN BUSINESSES. GOVT STRONGLY WARNS WORKERS OF
NEED TO CONFORM TO LEGAL PROVISIONS WHICH PERMIT WORK
STOPPAGES ONLY AFTER ALL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION
PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. APPEAL MADE TO CIVIC
SPIRIT OF WORKERS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE DEVELOPMENT

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OF NATIONAL ECONOMY.

2. AS OF MORNING FEB 4, SITUATION IN DOUALA CALM. PORT STRIKE CONTINUING AND PORT CLOSED. WORKERS HAVE LISTED SOME OF DEMANDS, BUT NO NEGOTIATIONS YET STARTED. WORKERS WERE MOVED AWAY FROM MAIN PORT GATE TO MORE REMOTE LOCATION. ONLY SEVERAL HUNDRED PRESENT, AND NUMBER OF GENDARMES HAS INCREASED. STRIKE AT SONEL (NATIONAL ELECTRICITY COMPANY) AVERTED SO FAR, REPORTEDLY BY MANAGEMENT OFFER TO SWEETEN THE POT. REGIFERCAM (RR) WORKERS STILL ON THE JOB, BUT DISCUSSING GOING ON STRIKE TOMORROW. SOME MOVEMENT REPORTED BACK TO WORK AT OTHER STRIKING ENTERPRISES.
SPIRO

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